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Letter dated 26 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you that in his talks with the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. John Shattuck, held at Belgrade on 24 October 1995, which focused on human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia, the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, inter alia, stated the following.

It is the obligation of the international community to put an end energetically to the genocidal actions of the Croatian authorities against the Serbs, both in areas that had been protected by the United Nations and elsewhere throughout Croatia where the Serbs remained following its forcible secession from Yugoslavia.

President Milosevic said that several hundred thousand Serbs had been banished from areas previously controlled by the United Nations in the past two and a half months alone. He cited those as the gravest forms of human rights violations, to which the international community failed to respond adequately or use its influence to prevent, despite the relevant reports by international monitors.

That is why the visit of the Assistant Secretary of State is welcome, as he was able to acquire a direct insight into the situation. Having been in Krajina, including Knin, which have been captured by the Croatian army, he arrived at objective assessments, from which ensues the inevitable obligation of the international community to put an end immediately to such practices of the Croatian authorities.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which consistently pursues a policy of national equality, has the unequivocal moral right to insist on that. All those who commit criminal acts against humanity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are treated equally before the law regardless of their national background. Consequently, the Yugoslav authorities urged the authorities and the leadership of Republika Srpska to undertake thorough investigations in connection with recent reports from Banja Luka and bring to justice those who committed criminal acts against the Muslims and Croats.

President Milosevic was also categoric in his stand that representatives of international humanitarian organizations and the press have to be granted free access to all affected areas. It was pointed out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia most strongly condemns any crime against people, their freedoms or property and, regardless of who the culprits are, is firm in its stand that those responsible must be brought to justice and adequately punished.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 112, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.